

Otto Farm, House  
Burnside Bridge Road  
Sharpsburg Vicinity  
Washington County  
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-943-A

HABS  
MD,  
22-SHARPS,  
33-A-

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

OTTO FARM, HOUSE

HABS NO. MD-943-A

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MD,  
22-SHARP.V  
33-A-

Location: Antietam National Battlefield Park, Burnside Bridge Rd., Sharpsburg Vicinity, Washington County, Maryland

Significance: The Otto house gains its significance due to its connections with Civil War Battle of Antietam Creek. Architecturally, it is a typical example of an antebellum farm house in this region.

Description: Located on Burnside Bridge Road across from the Sherrick House, the Otto house is a large rectangular structure consisting of a two-and-one-half-story, five-bay wide main block with a two-story, three-bay wide kitchen wing. The side gabled seam tin roof is contiguous along the elevation although the roof over the western kitchen wing of the house has a lower pitch. This wing has an exterior chimney on its west wall while interior gable-end chimneys anchor the main block of the house. A log structure, the Otto house has been sheathed with asbestos siding. Although the house sits on a stone foundation with a high cellar, a wall of whitewashed cement block has been used to reinforce the porch. The one-story, full facade, shed-roofed porch is of a typical style for vernacular farm dwellings of this region.

History: Deed research has led to the assumption that the main house was built ca. 1790. It remained in the Otto family into the twentieth century and was eventually sold to the National Park Foundation in 1976. It is now held by the National Park Service. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

During and after the Battle of Antietam, the Otto house was used as a hospital for the Union soldiers. Its location proved strategically apt for this purpose as when Rodman's command was repelled by A.P. Hill, their line fell back to the Otto farm.

Sources: Antietam National Battlefield Site, National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 1981.

Information provided by Betty J. Otto, Sharpsburg, MD, 1989

Historian: Martha Wagner, HABS, 1991